

Issue NE-CW3303, released August 18, 2003, by the Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA . For more information contact us at: 100 Centennial Mall North, Suite 298, Lincoln, NE 68508, 402-437-5541 or e-mail at [nass-ne@nass.usda.gov](mailto:nass-ne@nass.usda.gov). Homepage - <http://www.usda.gov/nass/>.

**Agricultural Summary:** For the week ending August 17, 2003, higher than normal temperatures and little or no precipitation for yet another week continued to stress dryland crops and pastures, according to USDA's Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service. Irrigated crops continued to hold their own where water remained available. Producer activities included cutting drought damaged corn for silage, monitoring grasshopper populations, spraying for insects, and putting up hay.

**Weather Summary:** Temperatures ranged from near normals to 4 degrees above normals for the week. Precipitation was virtually nonexistent with limited showers along the eastern border and in the center of the state.

Soil Moisture and Days Suitable: Nebraska, Week Ending August 17, 2003				
	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	Average
Percent				
Topsoil				
Very Short	47	39	69	29
Short	34	34	22	26
Adequate	19	27	9	44
Surplus	0	0	0	1
Subsoil				
Very Short	46	40	79	33
Short	34	37	17	26
Adequate	20	23	4	40
Surplus	0	0	0	1
Days Suitable	6.8	6.6	6.1	5.9

**Field Crops Report:** Corn condition continued to decline and rated 12 percent very poor, 13 poor, 24 fair, 36 good, and 15 excellent, above last year but slightly below average. Irrigated fields rated 77 percent good and excellent while dryland fields declined to 16. This compares to 50 and 4, respectively, a year ago. Seventy-four percent had reached the dough stage, behind last year at 79 and average at 78. Sixteen percent of the fields had reached the dent stage, behind last year at 38 and average at 30.

Soybean condition declined and rated 13 percent very poor, 19 poor, 34 fair, 28 good, and 6 excellent, above last year but below average. Pods were being set on 83 percent of the acreage, behind 91 last year and 89 average. Fields had begun to turn color in eastern and

southern counties. High population of aphids were being reported in some northeastern counties.

Oat harvest for grain was nearly complete with 97 percent combined, behind last year and average.

Sorghum condition declined and rated 15 percent very poor, 29 poor, 41 fair, 15 good, and 0 excellent, above last year but below average. Seventy-two percent of the acreage was headed, behind last year at 80 and average at 85. Heads were turning color on 9 percent of the acreage, behind last year at 22 and average at 14.

Dry bean condition rated 4 percent very poor, 8 poor, 27 fair, 53 good, and 8 excellent. Eighty-one percent had set pods, behind last year at 90 but ahead of average at 79. Plants were showing color on 10 percent of the acreage, behind last year at 16 and average at 12.

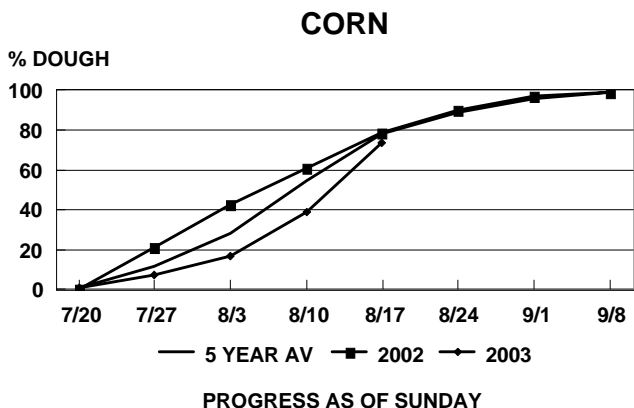
Alfalfa condition declined and rated 15 percent very poor, 27 poor, 35 fair, 21 good, and 2 excellent, above last year but below average. Third cutting activities were 61 percent harvested, behind last year at 71 but ahead of average at 59. The hot, dry weather continued to indicate little or no third cutting for many dryland producers.

Crop Progress : Nebraska, Week Ending August 17, 2003				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	Average
Percent				
Corn Dough	74	39	79	78
Corn Dent	16	4	38	30
Soybeans Blooming	98	94	100	99
Soybeans Setting Pods	83	69	91	89
Soybeans Turning Color	2	0	8	5
Oats Harvested	97	94	100	99
Sorghum Headed	72	63	80	85
Sorghum Coloring	9	2	22	14
Alfalfa 3 <sup>rd</sup> Cutting	61	50	71	59

Crop Condition: Nebraska, Week Ending August 17, 2003					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Percent					
Corn	12	13	24	36	15
Soybean	13	19	34	28	6
Sorghum	15	29	41	15	0
Dry Bean	4	8	27	53	8
Alfalfa	15	27	35	21	2

**Livestock, Pasture and Range Report:** Pasture and range condition declined and rated 25 percent very poor, 29 poor, 32 fair, 14 good, and 0 excellent, above last year but below average. In many areas, pastures were not providing good grazing potential with some producers providing supplemental feed and hauling water.

*This release is based on data from FSA county directors, county extension educators, NOAA, and the High Plains Climate Center. County comments and reports can be found at: [http://www.nass.usda.gov/ne/cropwthr/cmts\\_cur.htm](http://www.nass.usda.gov/ne/cropwthr/cmts_cur.htm)*



Item	NW	NC	NE	CEN	EC	SW	SC	SE
Total past week	.00	.08	.00	.02	.12	.00	.00	.22
Total since April 1	9.88	13.14	15.22	14.73	14.18	13.26	13.25	15.52
Normal since April 1	11.06	13.52	15.41	14.66	16.20	13.03	14.52	16.76
Total as % of normal	89%	97%	98%	100%	87%	101%	91%	93%

**Temperature and Growing Degree Days: By Location, Nebraska,  
Week Ending Sunday, August 17, 2003**

Station		Temperature				Growing Degree Days Since April 15		
		Extremes		Average	Departure	Last Week	Current	Normal
		High	Low					
NW	Alliance	93	54	73	+2	148	1827	1920
	Scottsbluff	92	56	75	+4	158	2036	1916
	Sidney	95	53	74	+2	152	1896	1965
NC	Ainsworth	96	58	75	+2	160	1974	2111
	Arthur	96	53	73	0	147	1889	2067
	O'Neill	98	56	75	+2	159	1962	2201
NE	Concord	97	57	75	+2	161	1981	2250
	Elgin	97	56	75	+1	161	2012	2251
	West Point	100	56	76	+1	161	2086	2373
C	Grand Island	98	56	76	+2	166	2122	2277
	Lexington	99	59	76	+3	169	2214	2240
	Ord	98	56	74	0	155	2046	2261
EC	Lincoln	102	59	78	+2	179	2301	2487
	Central City	99	54	75	+1	163	2132	2311
	Mead	102	53	76	0	159	2145	2452
SW	Champion	100	50	73	0	140	2024	2112
	North Platte	98	55	76	+3	165	2081	2134
	Curtis	98	57	75	+2	170	2195	2166
SC	Arapahoe	94	51	71	-1	138	1858	2060
	Minden	96	56	74	+1	159	2179	2247
	Red Cloud	104	56	78	+4	173	2241	2302
SE	Beatrice	101	55	76	0	162	2242	2488
	Clay Center	98	55	74	0	156	2112	2298
	Nemaha	103	62	79	+3	180	2391	2500

Source: High Plains Climate Center.

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